

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-10

MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-05 /095 W

-----171751Z 067992 /43

R 171453Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1348

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 586

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0345

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SY LE XF

SUBJ: JANUARY 15-17 SYRIAN MEDIA FOCUS ON HEAVY WEAPONS COLLECTION
DIFFICULTIES

1. MEDIA FOCUSED ON PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY ADF IN
COLLECTING HEAVY WEAPONS, CAIRO FOMINS' CONFERENCE AND
PRES ASAD'S INTERVIEW WITH TIME MAGAZINE (MEDIA REACTION
REPORTED SEPTTEL). REGARDING LEBANON, PRESS HEADLINED:
"PRES SARKIS ORDERS ADOPTION OF MEASURES INSURING SUB-
MISSION OF ALL HEAVY WEAPONS. QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE
DISCUSSES REVIVAL OF (1969) CAIRO AGREEMENT. IMPLEMEN-
TATION OF SECURITY STEPS HAS REINFORCED PEACE MARCH AND
PUT LEBANON ON ROAD TO TOTAL RELAXATION." ARTICLE ADDED
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PRES SARKIS HAD ISSUED ORDERS TO ADF TO CONDUCT
TACTICAL OPERATIONS TO ENSURE THAT ALL PARTIES THROUGH-
OUT LEBANON HAVE SUBMITTED HEAVY ARMS. MEDIA CITED
AL-SHARQ REPORT THAT ADF WILL DEAL HARSHLY WITH ANY PARTY
WHICH RETAINS HEAVY ARMS. PAPER ALSO ASSERTED THAT
SUCCESSFUL COLLECTION OF HEAVY WEAPONS WILL BE
FOLLOWED BY COLLECTION OF MEDIUM AND LIGHT WEAPONS WITHIN

NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS.

2. MEDIA REPORTED THAT PRIMIN HUSS RETURNED TO BEIRUT JAN 14 AFTER VISIT TO GULF STATES. FONMIN BUTRUS ANNOUNCED THAT UNSYG WALDHEIM WILL VISIT LEBANON FOR ONE-DAY DURING HIS FEB ME TOUR. FONMIN ALSO REMARKED ON LEBANESE TELEVISION THAT HE LOOKED INTO ISSUE OF LEBANESE ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA CONFERENCE.

3. COLUMNIST ADMITTED THAT SOME LEBANESE PARTIES HAVE DELAYED TURNING IN THEIR HEAVY WEAPONS TO ADF. HE ASSERTED THAT THESE PARTIES WERE "JEOPARDIZING PEACE EFFORTS," AND OPINED IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF ADF CONDUCTED BREAK-INS TO CONFISCATE HEAVY WEAPONS. HE CONCLUDED BY CALLING UPON THOSE WHO WANT PEACE IN LEBANON TO PLACE CONFIDENCE IN GOL AND ADF.

4. ON REGIONAL FRONT, PRESS HEADLINED: "INTENSIFIED POLITICAL CONTACTS ACCOMPANY MEETINGS OF ARAB FONMINS. FONMINS OF CONFRONTATION AND SUPPORTING STATES MEET TO ENDORSE WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED UPON AT RIYADH CONFERENCE. JOINT ARAB PLAN DRAWN UP FOR ARAB-EUROPEAN DIALOGUE AND ARAB-AFRICAN COOPERATION. ARAB SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN CAIRO MARCH 7. EGYPTIAN-JORDANIAN COMMUNIQUE CALLS FOR UNIFIED ARAB STRATEGY." MEDIA NOTED THAT AT CAIRO KHADDAM AND FAHMY MET PRIVATELY TO COORDINATE THEIR POSITIONS AND FORMULATE PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT SYRO-EGYPTIAN UNIFIED COMMAND.

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5. COLUMNIST URGED GREATER STRESS ON ARAB SOLIDARITY, WITHOUT WHICH ALL ARAB WEAPONS LESS EFFECTIVE. HE CLAIMED THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT ALTER ITS "HOSTILE POLICY" UNLESS FORCED TO DO SO. AL-BAATH EDITORIAL REFUTED IRAQI CRITICISM OF "SETTLEMENT BANDWAGON," CHARGING BAGHDAD REGIME WITH INTENTIONALLY MISLEADING ARABS. EDITORIAL CALLED FOR ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA CONFERENCE OR ANY FORUM IN WHICH ARAB GOALS COULD BE ACHIEVED.

6. PRESS CONDEMNED BAGHDAD "REGIME OF ASSASSINS" FOR CARRYING OUT TERRORISM AGAINST IRAQI CITIZENS WHO OPPOSE "FASCIST TIKRITIS." ARTICLE REPORTED THAT INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS CHARGED IRAQ WITH EXECUTING 227 KURDISH POLITICAL PRISONERS SINCE GENERAL AMNESTY ANNOUNCED FOR KURDS TWO YEARS AGO.

7. COMMENT: CRITICISM OF IRAQ HAS RESUMED AGAIN FOLLOWING LAPSE OF SEVERAL DAYS. IN LEBANON, SYRIA GIVING FAIR WARNING THAT ADF WILL ADOPT INCREASINGLY TOUGH MEASURES TO

IMPLEMENT HEAVY WEAPONS COLLECTION. ON REGIONAL FRONT,
MEDIA ABLE TO REPORT STEADY PROGRESS IN ARAB SOLIDARITY.
MURPHY

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
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